

## INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

Crop Weather      Prospective Plantings      Agricultural Prices

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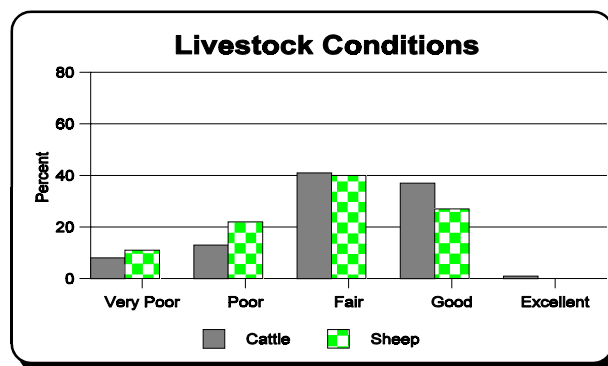
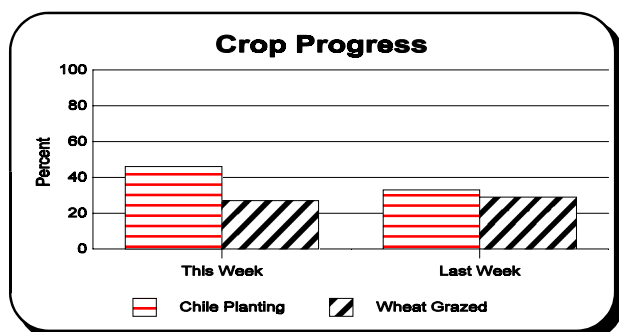
## CROP SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 30, 2003

**NEW MEXICO:** There were 6.2 days suitable for fieldwork. Wind damage was 13% light, 1% moderate, and 5% severe. Freeze damage was 8% light, 12% moderate, and 13% severe. Farmers spent the week preparing fields, irrigating, and planting chile. Alfalfa conditions dropped slightly from last week and are now listed as 16% very poor, 10% poor, 43% fair, 29% good, and 2% excellent. Total wheat condition also declined since last week, primarily due to the effect the drought is having on the dryland crop. Total wheat is now listed as 7% very poor, 28% poor, 50% fair, 14% good, and 1% excellent, with 27% still being grazed. Lettuce, chile, and onions continue to do well, with all three crops listed in fair to excellent condition. Chile planting is moving along with 46% complete. Ranchers were busy calving and lambing, shearing, hauling water, and heavily supplementing feed. Cattle conditions remained about the same at 8% very poor, 13% poor, 41% fair, 37% good, and 1% excellent. Sheep, on the other hand, saw some decline in conditions and are listed at 11% very poor, 22% poor, 40% fair, and 27% good. Pasture and range saw little change at 26% very poor, 25% poor, 45% fair, and 4% good.

### CROP PROGRESS PERCENTAGES WITH COMPARISONS

CROP PROGRESS		This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
CHILE	Planted	46	33	1/	1/
WHEAT	Grazed	27	29	1/	1/

<sup>1/</sup> Not available

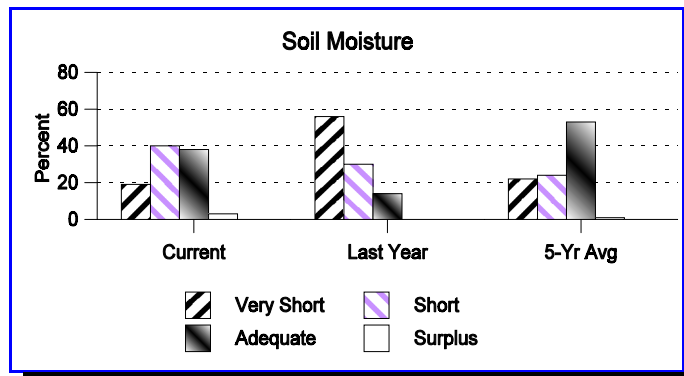


### CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION PERCENTAGES

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	16	10	43	29	2
Lettuce	—	—	19	24	57
Chile	—	—	11	87	2
Onions	—	—	6	76	18
Wheat (All)	7	28	50	14	1
Cattle	8	13	41	37	1
Sheep	11	22	40	27	—
Range/Pasture	26	25	45	4	—

### SOIL MOISTURE PERCENTAGES

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Northwest	15	30	53	2
Northeast	21	43	30	6
Southwest	15	85	--	--
Southeast	23	30	47	--
State	19	40	38	3
State-Last Year	56	30	14	--
State-5-Yr Avg.	22	24	53	1



### WEATHER SUMMARY

The week began on the warm side but some unseasonably cold air pushed into New Mexico from the northwest on Thursday and covered much of the state for the remainder of the week. Consequently, the statewide average temperature for the week was close to normal. Lower elevation spots in the south hit the 80's on afternoons the first half of the week, but cooled as much as 20 degrees or more late in the week. Red River dipped to one below zero on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Measurable precipitation fell at over half the stations, but amounts were generally light. Red River (.47") reported the greatest total. No data available for Socorro and Roy.

### NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS MARCH 24 - MARCH 30, 2003

Station	Temperature			Precipitation				
	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	03/24 03/30	03/01 03/30	Normal Mar	01/01 03/30	Normal Jan-Mar
Carlsbad	54.1	84	30	0.11	0.22	0.30	1.40	1.00
Hobbs	49.6	81	21	0.02	0.11	0.52	0.49	1.41
Roswell	51.6	83	26	0.05	0.17	0.45	0.69	1.34
Clayton	43.1	72	20	0.04	0.37	0.55	0.44	1.10
Clovis	48.9	79	21	0.07	0.18	0.59	0.31	1.49
Roy	--	--	--	0.00	0.35	0.55	0.50	1.32
Tucumcari	46.9	76	22	0.04	1.51	0.40	2.12	1.13
Chama	31.8	57	5	0.09	1.16	1.99	3.52	5.34
Johnson Ranch	37.9	64	13	0.09	0.45	0.74	1.69	1.98
Capulin	36.4	67	10	0.11	1.37	0.89	2.04	1.85
Las Vegas	38.1	68	12	T	0.41	0.56	1.01	1.27
Los Alamos	38.6	61	15	0.13	0.68	1.22	1.57	2.88
Raton	37.1	67	10	0.10	1.66	0.83	2.02	1.84
Santa Fe	39.2	67	12	0.02	0.91	0.74	1.85	2.06
Red River	28.9	51	-1	0.47	2.20	1.78	5.71	4.07
Farmington	42.1	65	19	T	0.47	0.81	2.50	1.97
Gallup	37.3	67	9	0.02	0.41	1.05	1.41	2.59
Grants	37.9	68	8	0.00	0.03	0.50	0.41	1.50
Silver City	46.2	70	21	0.00	0.64	0.96	2.14	3.37
Quemado	38.6	68	8	0.04	0.69	0.80	1.38	2.35
Albuquerque	47.8	71	27	0.01	0.97	0.54	1.99	1.44
Carrizozo	44.1	72	18	T	0.00	0.57	0.94	1.74
Gran Quivera	43.3	68	19	0.00	0.15	0.72	0.45	2.24
Moriarty	41.6	70	9	0.00	0.53	0.53	0.89	1.44
Ruidoso	39.3	65	12	0.24	0.75	1.33	1.71	3.61
Socorro	--	--	--	0.00	0.10	0.27	0.49	1.05
Alamogordo	55.1	81	32	0.00	0.01	0.46	1.18	1.67
Animas	54.9	80	29	0.00	0.13	0.47	1.40	1.66
Deming	52.6	79	27	0.00	0.12	0.34	1.89	1.36
T or C	51.8	80	25	0.01	0.07	0.34	0.99	1.18
Las Cruces	53.6	80	28	0.00	0.12	0.22	1.91	1.05

(T) Trace (-) No Report (\*) Correction

All reports based on preliminary data. Precipitation data corrected monthly from official observation forms.

## PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

**NEW MEXICO:** Corn growers intend to plant 130,000 acres of corn for all purposes in 2003, a 3.7 percent decrease from 2002. Intended plantings for sorghum decreased by 12 percent to 150,000 acres compared to 170,000 in 2002. Winter wheat planted area is estimated at 500,000 acres for 2003, 3.9 percent below 2002. Peanut producers intend to plant the same amount of acreage as 2002 at 18,000 acres. Upland cotton acreage is estimated to total 58,000 acres, a 7.4 percent increase over the previous year's plantings. American-Pima cotton plantings are expected to be slightly lower than last year at 7,000 acres. Intended area for harvest of all hay is estimated at 380,000 acres, the same level as the previous two years.

**UNITED STATES:** Corn growers intend to plant 79.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2003, virtually unchanged from 2002 but 4 percent above 2001. Expected acreage is up in the eastern Corn Belt. All wheat planted area is expected to total 61.7 million acres in 2003, up 2 percent from 2002. All cotton plantings for 2003 are expected to total 14.3 million acres, 2 percent above last year. Upland acreage is expected to total 14.1 million acres, a 2 percent increase from 2002. American-Pima cotton growers intend to decrease their plantings to 200,000 acres, down 18 percent from 2002. Peanut producers intend to plant 1.24 million acres of peanuts in 2003, down 8 percent from one year ago. The 2003 intended sorghum acreage planted for all purposes is estimated at 9.45 million acres, down 1 percent from last year. Hay producers expect to harvest 63.6 million acres of all hay in 2003, down 1 percent from 2002.

**Crop Summary, Acres Planted, New Mexico and U.S., 2001-2003**

	New Mexico				United States			
	2001	2002	2003 <sup>1/</sup>	2003/2002	2001	2002	2003 <sup>1/</sup>	2003/2002
	-----1,000 Acres-----				-----1,000 Acres-----			
	--Percent--				--Percent--			
Corn	130	135	130	96	75,752	79,054	79,022	100
Sorghum	170	170	150	88	10,252	9,580	9,451	99
Oats	—	—	—	—	4,403	5,005	4,828	96
Barley	—	—	—	—	4,967	5,073	5,379	106
All Wheat	500	520	500	96	59,597	60,358	61,697	102
Winter	500	520	500	96	41,078	41,735	44,308	106
Other Spring	—	—	—	—	15,609	15,714	14,556	93
Soybeans	—	—	—	—	74,075	73,758	73,182	99
Peanuts	22.2	18.0	18.0	100	1,541.2	1,358.0	1,244.0	92
All Cotton	73.2	61.1	65.0	106	15,768.5	13,962.6	14,253.0	102
Upland	68.0	54.0	58.0	107	15,498	13,719.0	14,053.0	102
A-P	5.2	7.1	7.0	99	270.0	243.6	200.0	82
All Hay <sup>2/</sup>	380	380	380	100	63,521	64,497	63,552	99

<sup>1/</sup> Intended plantings in 2003 as indicated by reports from farmers. <sup>2/</sup> Intended area harvested in 2003 as indicated by reports from farmers.

### AGRICULTURAL PRICES RECEIVED

**NEW MEXICO:** Prices received in New Mexico during March 2003 for All Hay increased to \$143.00 per ton from the February 2003 price of \$142.00 per ton. The national average was \$92.80. Alfalfa prices also increased by the same amount to \$147.00 per ton. This compared to the national average of \$96.20 per ton. Cow prices increased by \$1.80 in March to \$41.60 per hundredweight, \$1.80 above the national average of \$39.80. Steer and heifer prices dropped to \$75.50 from the previous month's price of \$80.10. This was \$.70 cents below the national average of \$76.20 per hundredweight. March calf prices decreased from the previous month by \$1.50 to \$92.70 and were \$3.70 below the national average of \$96.40. Milk prices continue to drop. In March 2003 the average price per hundredweight in New Mexico was \$10.60, a decline of \$.40 cents from the February price of \$11.00 and 40 cents below the national average of \$11.00.

#### Prices Received by Farmers: Selected Commodities, February 2003 and March 2002-03

Commodity	Unit	New Mexico			U.S.
		Mar 2002 <sup>2/</sup>	Feb 2003 <sup>2/</sup>	Mar 2003 <sup>1/</sup>	Mar <sup>1/</sup>
<b>CROPS</b>		-----Dollars-----			
Grain Sorghum	Cwt.	--	--	--	3.97
Cotton, Upland	Lb.	--	--	--	.445
Potatoes	Cwt.	--	--	--	6.87
Hay, all baled	Ton	133.00	142.00	143.00	92.80
Alfalfa, baled	Ton	137.00	146.00	147.00	96.20
Peanuts	Lb.	--	--	--	.212
Corn	Bu	--	--	--	2.30
Wheat, all	Bu	--	--	--	3.49
<b>LIVESTOCK</b>					
Sheep <sup>3/</sup>	Cwt.	--	--	--	43.60
Lambs <sup>3/</sup>	Cwt.	--	--	--	92.40
Cows	Cwt.	42.40	39.80	41.60	39.80
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	79.20	80.10	75.50	76.20
Calves	Cwt.	99.80	94.20	92.70	96.40
Milk	Cwt.	12.50	11.00	10.60	11.00

<sup>1/</sup> Mid-month. <sup>2/</sup> Entire month. <sup>3/</sup> February - Entire Month